

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

March 3, 2004

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EMS TRANSMISSION 03/04/2004
Instruction Memorandum No. 2004-077, Change 1
Expires: 09/30/2005

To: All Field Officials

From: Assistant Director, Minerals, Realty and Resource Protection

Subject: The Fluid Minerals Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development
Awards Program DD: 04/16/2004

Purpose: This is a change to the original IM- 2004-077 to make it clear that this awards program applies to Federal and Indian lands only, and to extend the deadline for the nominations.

Background: The Department of the Interior (DOI), through the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), has presented reclamation awards to coal mine operators for the past 16 years. On October 1, 2003, the Director presented the inaugural Hardrock Mining awards to four recipients at the National Mining Association's 26th Annual Awards Banquet in Washington, D.C. Because of the success and excitement demonstrated from the Hardrock Awards, we have decided to expand this awards program to the Fluids Program, namely oil and gas and geothermal operations on Federal and Indian lands. The 2004 Petroleum/Fluid Minerals Conference on June 22, 2004, in Cheyenne, Wyoming will launch the first Fluid Minerals Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development awards program.

The Fluids awards program will be an important component of DOI's overall approach to ensuring that land is returned to a productive use after oil and gas development has occurred. This new awards program is being initiated to recognize oil and gas operators who make exemplary contributions to fluid minerals development. Two kinds of awards will be available: "The Fluid Minerals Environmental Award" and "The Fluid Minerals Environmental Partnership Award, for Community Outreach and Economic Security." This allows for awards to be granted for Oil and Gas and Geothermal components of Sustainable Development, namely, environmental health, social responsibility and economic security. The Secretary's four Cs land management philosophy of consultation, cooperation, communication—all in the service of conservation, is integral and basic to the nomination for and approval of these awards.

Policy: The DOI has created this awards program to showcase some of the finest examples of responsible fluid minerals resource development on Federal or Indian lands. The award winners will illustrate an understanding of Sustainable Development—development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own.

The awards program will help us transfer successful ideas and practices from one place to additional locations throughout the Nation.

Implementation: The State Office will assist the Washington Office in publicizing this awards program. A detailed description of the awards program is attached. This may be distributed to the public as notice of the program. The Washington Office will provide additional promotional materials separately. The Washington Office will also coordinate language for press releases to avoid duplication of effort. Please provide the name of a State Office contact for this program to Donnie Shaw by e-mail: Donnie_Shaw@blm.gov.

The State Office will process nominations submitted under this awards program under their jurisdiction. The State Office will verify the information that is submitted with the nomination and determine if the nominee is in compliance with all applicable regulations. All nominations will be forwarded to the Washington Office, Fluid Minerals Group, (WO-310) by April 16, 2004. The State Office will include a short statement of its findings with each nomination.

The judges for this program have not yet been selected. Each State Office is invited to nominate people who are qualified to judge the nominations. Judges may be members of the public, from Federal or State government, or from academic institutions.

Budget Implications: The budget impact of this awards program is minimal. The Washington Office will pay any Bureau travel costs associated with the program.

Manual/Handbook Sections: No manual or handbook sections are affected by this Instruction Memorandum.

Coordination: Coordination activities for this awards program are ongoing. A variety of organizations have shown an interest and have provided examples of other successful awards programs. Organizations with an interest in fluid minerals management will be notified of this program and invited to submit nominations.

Contact: Donnie Shaw, Fluid Minerals Group, (WO-310) at (202) 452-0382.

Signed by:
Bob Anderson
Acting Assistant Director
Minerals, Realty and Resource Protection

Authenticated by:
Barbara J. Brown
Policy & Records Group, WO-560

1 Attachment:

1 – Award Program Description (7 pp)